

## **RESOLUTION NO. 15-508**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised of the significance of the National Merit Scholarship Program which began in 1955 and the National Achievement Scholarship Program which began in 1964. We wish to acknowledge and commend those students who attained this lofty goal; and,

**WHEREAS**, the National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition established in 1955 for recognition and scholarships that high school students enter by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) - a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year - and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements; and,

**WHEREAS**, the National Achievement Scholarship Program is an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students; and,

**WHEREAS**, in both programs, Finalists must meet high academic standards and other requirements, and are judged based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments - without consideration of financial circumstances or college choice. In the National Merit Scholarship Program, each Semifinalist submits a detailed scholarship application, which includes essays and information about extracurricular achievements, awards and leadership positions. Semifinalists must have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed and recommended by a school official and earn ACT or SAT scores that confirm their qualifying test performance. In the National Achievement Scholarship Program, Semifinalists are the highest-scoring program participants, and must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and other requirements; and,

**WHEREAS**, in Huntsville City Schools' 2014-2015 National Merit Program, the following students attained National Merit Program Finalist: Grissom High School, Lucretia Kalange, Principal, Sheri Crigger, Grissom High School Post-Secondary Counselor, Suzanne Norris, PTA President; Students: James Brahm; Ratannya Bralley, Gwendolyn Lemley, Christopher Lin, Matthew Terry, Cameron Thomas and Braden Yang; Huntsville High School, Mark Mincher, Principal, Quaynteece Mosby, Huntsville High School Senior Counselor; Amy Harbarger, PTA President; Students: Owen Clarke, Ellery Jones, Rachael Mackenzie, Megan McDuffee and Andrea Walker. The National Achievement Finalist student from Grissom High School was Jasmine Willis.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, do hereby recognize and congratulate these young men and women for their significant achievements in becoming Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship and National Achievement Scholarship Programs, bringing distinction and honor to their respective schools, instructors, families and themselves. This is only the beginning of many outstanding future accomplishments, and we wish each of you the very best in all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** and **APPROVED** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2015.